

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please delete paragraph [0029] and replace with the following amended paragraph:

**[0029]**        ~~Claims 12, 13, 14 indicate more concrete, preferred designs of the first profile, the second profile and the third profile. The embodiments described in the following will make such profiles still clearer. herein provide further details of the first, second and third profiles.~~

Please delete paragraph [0032] and replace with the following amended paragraph:

**[0032]**        ~~Claims 17 and 18 define~~ The present disclosure further defines preferred combinations of first profiles, second profiles and third profiles on the circumference of the ground covering element. More detailed information in this regard will be given by the embodiments further discussed below.

Please delete paragraph [0067] and replace with the following amended paragraph:

**[0067]**        This compromise is still further enhanced when the pairs of projection 16a and recess 18a and projection 16c and recess 18c closer to the respective ends of the basic element side are of lesser width than the pair of projection 16b and recess 18b arranged therebetween, cf. Fig. 2d. ~~and claim 4.~~

Please delete paragraph [0073] and replace with the following amended paragraph:

**[0073]**        The profile illustrated in Fig. 4 is a profile of the type referred to as "first profile 14a" in the present text. In comparison with the profile 14 of Fig. 1 (e.g. considering the "horizontal" profile 14 to the upper right in Fig. 1), the second projection 16b is rendered narrower to such an extent that it has a width (as measured in the direction of the neutral line 12) corresponding to the width of third projection 16c. Between the thus formed second projection 16b and the third projection 16c, there is located a retraction 30. Retraction 30 is further retracted towards the interior of covering element 2 than the bottom of recess 18a and the bottom of recess 18c. Retraction 30 in total is of trapezoidal shape.

In ~~the claims and~~ the introductory part of the specification, first projection 16a is designated "first end neighboring projection" (as it is located in the neighborhood of the first end of the profile), second projection 16b is designated "end distance projection" (as, in comparison with the other projections, it is arranged at a larger distance from the ends of the profile), and third projection 16c is designated "second end neighboring projection" (as it is located in the neighborhood of another end of the profile).

Please delete paragraph **[0075]** and replace with the following amended paragraph:

**[0075]** The profile illustrated in Fig. 6 is a profile of the type referred to as "third profile 14c" in the present text. In comparison with the profile 14 of Fig. 1 (e.g. considering the "horizontal" profile 14 to the upper right in Fig. 1), the first projection 16 is omitted and substituted by a corresponding broadening of the first recess 18a. The second projection 16b of Fig. 1 is rendered narrower to the same extent as in case of profile 14a in Fig. 4. The retraction 30 in Fig. 5 also corresponds to the retraction 30 in Fig. 4. In the ~~claims and~~ the description, projection 16b is designated "end distance projection" (since, in the light of the just outlined history of origin, it corresponds to the end distance projection 16b in Fig. 4 and although there is no further projection between it and the left-hand end of the profile 14c). It is emphasized that the profiles 14a, 14b, 14c as an alternative may also be designed such that they are folded by 180° about their halving axis located in the drawing plane, so that they would each begin with recess 18c at the left-hand end.